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STATE BELT BUCKLES AND CARTRIDGE BOX PLATES OF THE CONFEDERACY

By William G. Gavin

In 1912, when the collecting of American Civil War material was in its infancy, Mr. Richard D. Steuart, the outstanding Confederate collector and student, received a letter from a fellow collector, in which the latter expressed the belief that there were still many types of Confederate buckles and plates unknown to students of that period. Even today, although such material is exhibited on a large scale in our museums and historical shrines throughout the land, the collector encounters buckles and plates of a seemingly endless variety. Just when one reaches the point at which he begins to believe that he has seen and catalogued all the existing types of Confederate insignia, a multitude of hitherto unknown specimens will be discovered. This great variation of types seems to demonstrate the almost complete lack of standardization of military equipment which existed within the Confederate States. Scant attention was given by the various state authorities to these details. Apparently little effort was made to achieve any standard design of insignia, even within individual states. It is known that large issues of military equipment, including insignia, were made by the various Confederate states to their troops upon the commencement of hostilities. After the depletion of these initial issues, the Confederate Government was given the burden of resupply. The failure of the government to meet these supply demands has already been discussed in the author's earlier article on Confederate buckles in *MC&H* (Vol. V, No. 2, pp. 41-44).

Buckles and plates bearing state regimental markings, or the state seals or initials, are comparatively rare today, although they are often seen in museums and battlefield relic collections. However, they never appear in the quantities that the regulation Union Army insignia do. This tends to prove the theory that there never were any great quantities of them to begin with. This article will discuss those buckles and plates which were sup-

plied to Confederate troops by their respective home states.

It is believed that the State of Virginia issued more buckles and plates for use by its soldiers than did any other Confederate state. This is easily explained: Virginia had had a large and well-organized militia for many years prior to the Civil War. Virginia was a prosperous and relatively powerful state in those days. Her militia organizations were well supplied with military equipment of all types, including uniforms and the accompanying insignia. Figure 1 illustrates a rectangular cast brass buckle, which is believed to have been one of the standard type militia buckles used by Virginia militia prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. This buckle is one of the most common of the Virginia types in existence. It was widely used by Virginia Confederate troops, and is often seen in battlefield museums and relic collections. The exhibited specimens nearly always show signs of much wear. The buckle illustrated in Figure 1 was found on a Virginia battlefield.

Generals Lee, Jackson, and Stuart, along with many other noted sons of Virginia, wore buckles bearing the seal of their mother state. Usually the type adopted by officers was the two-piece, cast brass style, illustrated in Figure 2. Photographs, paintings, and some of the actual specimens in displays show that this buckle was widely used. That the two-piece buckles of this style were fabricated by many establishments is demonstrated by the many differences in minor details found in them. Fine examples of this type are found in the Confederate Museum in Richmond, and in the Virginia Military Institute Museum in Lexington, Virginia.

The interesting buckle shown in Figure 3 is made of stamped brass, and shows skilled workmanship in both design and fabrication. It is believed to have been made in Europe for use in the Confederate Army. Many

specimens of this style buckle are seen today in new condition, apparently never having been issued. These may either have been seized from blockade runners, or have been included in stores captured at the end of the war. The author has seen these buckles in their original paper wrappings, which seems to indicate that they were sold as war surplus after 1865. Many, however, must have seen field use, since they are often seen in battlefield relic collections.

A circular breast plate of the identical size as the regulation "eagle" breast plate used by the Union Army is sometimes found bearing the seal of Virginia. This particular style is believed to have been in use on militia equipment prior to the Civil War. Many northern and southern states utilized a circular breast plate with their state seals in their militia forces prior to 1861.

The buckle shown in Figure 4 is another type believed to have been manufactured abroad. This buckle, which is a battlefield find, is made of cast brass, and bears the name, "Virginia." The author has seen several of this type in new condition. Again, they are presumably war surplus stocks, seized either during or at the close of the war by the Federal Government.

Virginia Military Institute buckles are found in a medium-sized, oval pattern, with the letters "VMI." They are made with a brass face, which has a lead filling in the rear. Specimens of this type are to be found in a number of battlefield collections, which would seem to indicate a fairly common use of them during the war. Undoubtedly many VMI graduates used these buckles while in the Confederate service. In addition, they were used by the VMI Corps, during the latter's period of Confederate duty. The same oval plate, bearing the VMI letters, was also used as a cartridge box plate.

A small, oval buckle, bearing the single letter "V", is sometimes represented as a Virginia buckle. Whether this interpretation is correct is not conclusively known. One conflicting theory is that the "V" stands for "Vol-tigeur", since this branch of the U. S. Army was authorized to use this letter as a distinctive insignia under the Army Regulations of 1847. Another theory is that the "V" stands for "Veteran", and that the buckle was used by veterans' organizations after the Civil War. The author believes the buckle was used by Virginia Confederate troops.

The 12th Virginia Infantry Regiment, known as the "Richmond Grays", supposedly used an oval plate bearing the word, "Grays", with "1844" underneath it. A specimen of this type has been found on the Antietam battlefield.

An unusual story has been related to the writer by a

fellow member of the Company, Major J. D. Campbell, in relation to a buckle of the 6th North Carolina Infantry Regiment. This particular buckle is of cast brass, oval shaped, and bears the lettering, "6th Inf. NCST" (North Carolina State Troops). One in the author's collection is illustrated in Figure 5. At a Gettysburg reunion some years ago, so the story goes, one of these buckles was taken by its finder to be identified by two old veterans of the 6th N. C. One of these men remembered the buckle, and stated that it had been made up by a member of the regiment early in the war. The maker was an experienced brass worker, and he first fashioned a model in wood, made a mold, and then started production. Before many of the buckles had been produced, however, regimental officers stopped the work, because they felt there was not a large enough brass supply at that time to provide buckles for the entire regiment. Yet there must have been a sizable number made, for the author knows of at least two or three others in addition to the one illustrated.

Figure 6 shows an oval buckle, identical in size to the regulation Union "US" oval type, but bearing the large letters "NC". This buckle is a battlefield pick-up, and, with the exception of one other of its type in a Pennsylvania collection, it is the only one known to the writer. The particular North Carolina regiments which used these buckles are not known. It seems evident, however, that few were ever issued, judging by their scarcity today.

A brass, rectangular buckle bearing an oval decoration, within which are the letters "NC", is often seen. Several collectors believe this style to be of the post-Civil War period. Whether or not it was used in the Civil War is difficult to say. It follows closely the pattern widely used in post-Civil War militia equipment. An example of this item is shown in Figure 7.

One of the best executed of the North Carolina buckles is shown in Figure 8. It follows the familiar two-piece clasp style, and bears the North Carolina state seal in the center.

Many buckles must have been fabricated within the state of North Carolina in private establishments. An advertisement from the *Charlotte Daily Bulletin* of 26 August 1862 states that the Charlotte Foundry will make belt buckles to order.

South Carolina was well prepared for war when the outbreak came. She had had contracts for arms and other military equipment for many years prior to the war, for the purpose of keeping her forces in a constant state of readiness for hostilities. For this reason, the collector encounters a large number and variety of insignia from the Palmetto State. One of the most com-



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mon belt buckles from South Carolina is that illustrated in Figure 9. This specimen was found on Antietam battlefield. Many variations of this style exist, but they differ only in minor changes in the dies used to produce them.

Stamped brass buckles, in both large and small oval sizes, bearing the letters "SC", were widely used by South Carolina troops during the war. The one shown in Figure 10 is of the large oval variety, and was found on the Glendale, Va., battlefield. The author recently secured one which was found in a position occupied by Gregg's South Carolina Brigade, during the Second Battle of Manassas. This latter specimen is of the small, oval variety, and has a lead filling in the back. The larger oval size is found both in light, stamped brass face with lead-filled back, and in a heavier stamped brass stock, without lead filling.

The circular breastplate bearing the South Carolina seal is shown in Figure 11. Again, as in the case of the Virginia circular breastplate already mentioned, this specimen is believed to have been used by South Carolina militia prior to the war, as well as during it.

Many varieties of fine two-piece buckles, showing the Palmetto in the center surrounded by a wreath clasp, are found. These are believed to have been worn by South Carolina officers. The wide variety known suggests that they were probably made in a number of different establishments. Two rectangular styles of brass breastplates, with detachable insignia, are known. One bears the Palmetto, and the other, the letters "SC", in a fancy, entwined style.

Figure 12 illustrates a two-piece buckle which carries a palm tree in the center. This is a well-made and durable buckle of cast brass, and it is believed by many to be another variation of the Palmetto, and hence a South Carolina item. However, close examination discloses that the tree represented is a palm. For this reason, it is possible that this buckle may have been made up for use by officers of Florida regiments. Florida buckles and plates are exceedingly rare: the writer has seen only a few specimens representative of this state in the many collections he has examined. None are in the collections at Battle Abbey or in the Confederate Museum in Richmond. A search through the notes of Mr. Steuart did not disclose any information on this subject.

When one thinks of Georgia in relation to Confederate insignia, one is automatically reminded of the production of the rectangular Confederate Army buckle bearing the letters "CSA", which were turned out in great quantity by the Confederate Atlanta Arsenal. But what of other Georgia buckles? One of the finest

Georgia items used in Confederate service is the large oval buckle which bears the Georgia seal. These items bear the stamp of expert workmanship in their design and manufacture: a specimen is shown in Figure 13. This buckle was obtained from a Confederate veteran in Gainesville, Georgia, some years ago. The buckle is a regulation, large oval type, with a stamped brass face and lead-filled back. Again, it is believed that these buckles were used by the pre-Civil War militia units of Georgia. This type is often found in collections of battlefield relics in the areas of operation of the Army of Northern Virginia. The Georgia oval type is found in both belt buckles and cartridge box plates, and evidently was used on a complete set of equipment in a manner similar to the "US" oval buckles and plates.

A two-piece style buckle, bearing the Georgia seal in the middle, is sometimes seen. Other variations of Georgia insignia include a rectangular stamped brass buckle with the state seal within a wreath. A square breastplate with the corners clipped and bearing the state coat of arms also exists.

In January 1861, Alabama seceded from the Union, and declared herself "The Independent State of Alabama." She continued in this status until the organization of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States on 4 February 1861. Immediately after the secession, Alabama troops seized the Mt. Vernon Arsenal and the Federal forts, Morgan and Gaines. The forces of Alabama were then known as the Alabama Volunteer Corps. The First Regiment of the AVC, commanded by Col. John B. Todd, participated in the seizure of Federal property mentioned above. The Second Regiment of the AVC had the distinction of being the first force of a southern state to be sent to the aid of a sister state, when this regiment advanced to Pensacola in 1861. The AVC utilized both buttons and buckles bearing its initials. The buckles were oval, and existed in both large and small sizes. A specimen of the larger size is shown in Figure 14. It is a battlefield find from Gettysburg. There was apparently a considerable quantity of these buckles made, as they are quite frequently seen in collections and museums.

Figure 15 illustrates a large oval buckle bearing the Alabama seal. This specimen is made of stamped brass, with a lead filling in back. It is highly probable that this type buckle was used by the pre-Civil War Alabama militia, and was carried into the Confederate service by these troops.

An interesting and rare variation of the Alabama state seal buckle is a cast brass, rectangular type which was used in the Confederate Army of Tennessee. It is extremely crude, and shows clearly that it is the work of



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an inexperienced brass worker. It may well have been made by some of the soldiers themselves. The specimen described was found on the Lookout Mountain battlefield.

Although the state of Mississippi seems to have produced many interesting buckles and plates bearing "CS" and "CSA" markings, there are few specimens in existence which carry a distinctive Mississippi state seal marking. The buckle shown in Figure 16 is said to have been used in the Mississippi militia prior to 1861, and then used in Confederate service later on. The one illustrated originated in a Vicksburg collection. It is to be noted that this item follows the familiar pattern of other state seal buckles, which were popular in militia units prior to the Civil War. The reader will note that the eagle seal is contained in an oval design similar to the Virginia buckle illustrated in Figure 1.

Some collectors are of the belief that certain insignia which carry a lone star are not representative of Texas, but are in reality Mississippi items. This theory stems from the fact that Civil War period buttons exist which carry a star in the center, surrounded by the word "Mississippi."

Louisiana provides us with an interesting assortment of buckles which originated from units within her borders. Nearly all of these Louisiana items bear the famed Louisiana Pelican in some form or other. An interesting specimen is shown in Figure 17. This item is made of stamped brass, with a lead filling in the back. The hooks are rather crudely made from strips of heavy brass. This particular type buckle is also illustrated in a rough sketch of a "Louisiana Pelican" soldier in Volume 1 of *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. Buckles similar to these are often seen in collections, which leads us to suppose that a fairly large number must have been made.

Louisiana also adopted and used the two-piece clasp type buckle, with the Pelican in the center, surrounded by the usual wreath design. The center portion of one of these buckles is on display in the Shiloh National Military Park Museum. A cast brass rectangular buckle bearing the Pelican was also widely used by Louisiana troops. The specimen shown in Figure 18 is one of the latter types. The wreath of this particular item is made of silver-colored metal, but the remainder of the buckle is of brass.

An oval buckle bearing the Louisiana Pelican seal is also said to have existed, although the author has never seen a specimen of this type. The famed Washington Artillery of New Orleans is known to have worn a rectangular brass buckle bearing the letters "WA." Later

in the war, it is said, this style was replaced by a two-piece type which bore a lion's head in the center.

A beautiful Louisiana buckle finished in silver is illustrated in Figure 19. A similar specimen is on display in the Vicksburg Military Park Museum. That particular item was found on the battlefield there.

The writer does not know of any existing Tennessee buckle with a distinctive Tennessee coat of arms on it. None have been seen in the collections examined, which include that of the State Museum in Nashville. A buckle bearing the seal of this state would have presented an outstanding appearance, because of the unique design of the seal.

Tennessee regiments are supposed to have worn rectangular buckles bearing only the numerals of the regiment. One bearing the number "12" is owned by a descendent of the original wearer, who was a member of the 12th Tennessee Regiment. Another bearing the number "37" is in a Chattanooga collection.

A multitude of buckles bearing the Lone Star insignia are to be seen in museums and private collections throughout the United States. Which of these were actually worn by Texas troops while serving the Confederacy? This is a highly controversial subject. The theory that Mississippi troops might also have worn star buckles has already been presented.

The most common of the Lone Star buckles is the large oval type illustrated in Figure 20. There are two general styles of this buckle, and they differ only in minor details. For comparison, the second type is shown in Figure 21. The specimen shown in Figure 20 was supposedly imported from abroad for Texas Confederate troops. This type was once available in Civil War government surplus stocks from Francis Bannermann Sons, in New York City. Evidently large numbers of them were captured during the war, and were sold off after 1865 with other war surplus goods. The number of this particular type which was actually used by Confederate troops is not known. The type illustrated in Figure 21 is found in many battlefield relic collections, and evidently saw wide use during the war. The one illustrated was found at Gettysburg. A square brass buckle with clipped corners, bearing the Lone Star in the center, is sometimes believed to have been Confederate. The writer has never seen any which were battlefield finds. Attempts may have been made to import this style of buckle into the Confederacy, but it is not believed that any were ever actually used. Francis Bannermann Sons sold this type for years, and listed it as being secured in Europe after the Civil War.

Cast brass buckles of rectangular shape, containing a

star in the center, are sometimes found. Undoubtedly many of these saw service during the Civil War, because certain specimens of this type are seen in battlefield relic collections.

The two-piece, wreath style buckle bearing the Lone Star in the center is occasionally seen in collections. Generally, these items may be regarded as authentic, and most of them were probably worn by Texas officers in Confederate service.

The star symbol was widely used on military insignia long before the Civil War by various military organizations, and has been popular ever since. For this reason, great caution should be exercised in definitely labeling any item which displays the star as having necessarily been used by Texas Confederate forces.

In the display of Confederate uniforms and equipment in the Smithsonian Institute, there is a large oval buckle bearing the state seal of Arkansas. It was worn by Surgeon J. E. Nagel during his service with the Confederate Army. The Arkansas seal shown on this buckle was adopted by the Arkansas General Assembly on 3 May 1864. It is a unique specimen in that it is one of the very few Arkansas insignia of the Civil War period known to exist. The author knows of no other, and Mr. Steuart's notes indicate that he did not know of a single Arkansas Civil War buckle or plate.

Missouri, while furnishing a number of regiments to the Confederate Army, was in a peculiar situation at the beginning of the war. The state was evenly divided in sympathies, but was under federal control for the greater part of the conflict. It is a well-known fact that funds for equipping the Missouri Confederate troops were severely limited and painfully inadequate. It is not believed that items of insignia were given much attention as long as the demands for arms and ammunition were so critical. At any rate, there are no known specimens of Confederate buckles or plates which represent Missouri.

Kentucky, another border state, is not well represented in the field of military insignia of the Civil War period. One type, the familiar cast brass, two-piece buckle, is illustrated in Figure 22. This specimen bears the seal of Kentucky. It is difficult to say whether it is a Union or Confederate buckle. With the state sympathies so evenly divided, it might well have been worn by a member of either army. A shield-like brass insignia with the seal of Kentucky is known to exist. It was most probably used as a hat or cap ornament, rather than as a breastplate or buckle. Insignia bearing Kentucky markings may be considered extremely rare.

The large oval buckle illustrated in Figure 23 bears the coat of arms of Maryland. It is made of stamped

brass, with a lead-filled back. This style item is found both as a cartridge box plate and as a buckle. Often this type of buckle or plate is labeled as being Confederate, whereas most probably it was used by Maryland regiments in both armies. Some specimens of this type have the name "Gaylord" stamped on the back. Inasmuch as Gaylord was a northern manufacturer, it would seem that these items might more properly be identified as Union equipment. It is possible, however, that they may have been made up prior to the Civil War for use in the Maryland militia. This style insignia saw considerable use by Maryland troops, and can often be seen in collections of battlefield relics.

The buckle in Figure 24 is made of cast brass, and follows the pre-Civil War militia pattern quite closely. The state seal of Maryland is illustrated within the oval on the buckle. This buckle was secured from the Antietam battlefield. The author has seen two buckles of this pattern in perfect condition, apparently never issued. They were included in material which had been sold by the Government as surplus after 1865. The detailed story of these specimens would probably provide ample material for a separate article, if it ever could be fully related.

Maryland buckles of the two-piece, wreath type are known to exist, and were probably worn by both Union and Confederate officers in the various Maryland regiments throughout the war. They follow the familiar pattern of the two-piece type, and have the Maryland seal in the center.

Prior to the death of Mr. Richard Steuart, it had been understood that he intended to write an article on Confederate buckles and plates. Because of his untimely passing, however, this was never accomplished. Through the kindness of Mr. William Albaugh, III, Confederate arms authority, the data which Mr. Steuart collected on buckles and plates has been made available to the writer. This material has been studied with great care, and much of the information therein has been incorporated in this article. The author also wishes to thank Major J. D. Campbell and Mr. Charles E. Ardinger for the information which their long collecting experiences have enabled them to provide.

The limitations of this article are readily recognized. There are undoubtedly many types of interesting specimens which have been omitted from these lines. It is hoped that progressively more on this subject will be brought to light, until the point has been reached where the complete story on these interesting relics of the Lost Cause may be related.

THE GREEN COATS OF THE ENLISTED LIGHT DRAGOONS, 1799-1801

by Detmar H. Finke and H. Charles McBarron

In the *Uniform of the Army of the United States from 1774 to 1889*, Ogden portrayed on Plate IX an enlisted cavalryman in a green coat with black facings, for the period 1799-1802. It has long been a question, in view of the confused organizational situation and the lack of records for the period 1799-1800, whether these green coats were ever worn and if so exactly when and by whom. The following article will endeavor to answer these questions.

In July of 1798, when the Army was ordered to be expanded in consequence of the Quasi-War with France, the cavalry in the service of the United States consisted of two troops of Light Dragoons commanded by Captains Solomon Van Rennselaer and James Taylor.¹ The additional force authorized for the expansion of the cavalry was six troops of Light Dragoons, which with the above mentioned two troops was to form a Regiment of Light Dragoons of eight companies. This regiment, however, remained largely a paper one, for although the officers were appointed and most of them came on duty, the recruiting of enlisted men and procurement of horses for the six additional companies was not undertaken on account of the high cost involved in the upkeep of the cavalry. In May of 1800 the Regiment of Light Dragoons, consisting only of the additional officers, was ordered to be discharged except for the two old troops. These two troops, then stationed on the frontiers of Tennessee and Georgia, were dismounted early in 1801 and did duty as troops of dismounted dragoons until their final discharge in the spring of 1802.²

The uniform regulations for the army of January 1799 established a new green uniform for the cavalry in place of the blue worn theretofore. This uniform was based, judging from the color combination, on the uniform of the Virginia militia cavalry. The uniform ordered was: "green coat with white buttons, lining and

facings; white vests and breeches, and helmet caps", to say the least a rather vague and broad description.³

The contract for the uniform coats of the enlisted dragoons was taken up by Thomas Billington of Philadelphia, who on 22 July wrote to the Inspector General, Major General Alexander Hamilton, requesting patterns so that he could begin to manufacture the dragoon coats and vests. General Hamilton seems to have had his own ideas about the style of the cavalry coat and about the practicability of white facings, for when the pattern coat he had made up in New York was finally submitted in September 1799 to the Secretary of War, James McHenry, for approval it was seen that the facings were black velvet instead of white cloth as originally ordered.

The pattern coat, as reconstructed from contemporary regulations, was as follows:⁴

Green coat with black collar, cuffs and lapels. Standing collar three inches high with small button and blind button hole on each side. Cuffs three inches deep, indented at the upper part, having each three blind holes double and forming an angle with one button at the point, and one at each extremity of the sides. Each lapel to be four inches at the top gradually lessening to two and a half at the bottom, having seven buttons equidistant, beginning half an inch from the bottom of the collar with which the top of the lapels is to range in contact. On each shoulder a strap an inch wide edged with black, terminated by a small button in line with the bottom of the collar. The skirts to be of sufficient length fully to cover the seat, turned up in front on each side with black, three inches wide below and narrowing to a point at the bottom of the lapel, edged behind with black, terminated at the bottom by a button. On each skirt, three double blind button holes, forming an angle with the point below, and with the like buttons as above described, i.e. plain yellow, those of the extremities of the upper angle to range in a line with the buttons of the hips. The button holes to be yellow, the lining white.

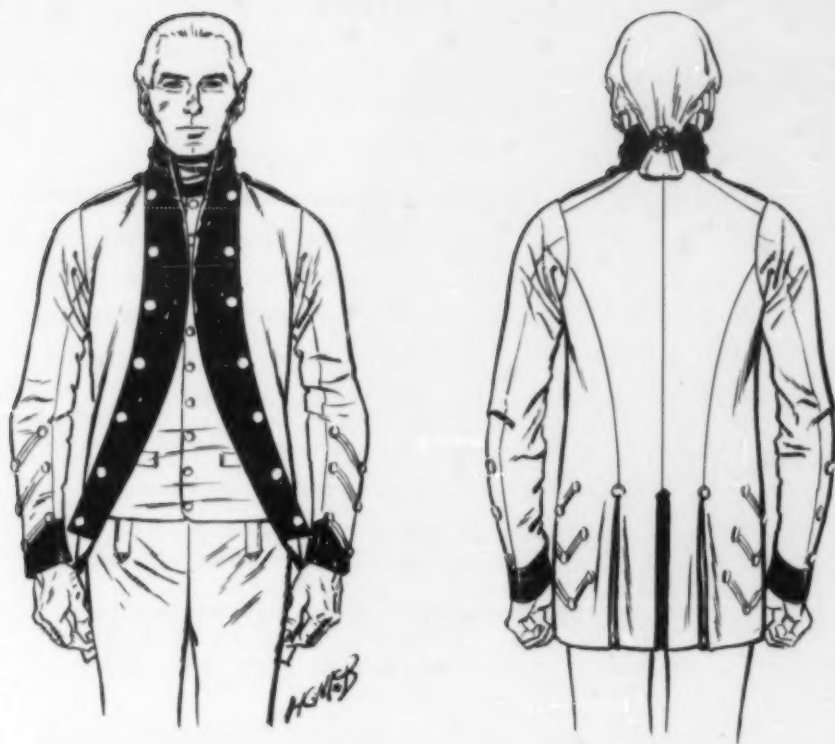
The form of this coat, judging from the above description, was similar to that in use in the British Isles and reflected the style current in the militia cavalry of this period in the United States. It may be doubted that the triple row of buttons on the sleeves and skirts ever got beyond the sample coat stage.

¹ Captain Van Rennselaer was promoted major in the Regiment of Light Dragoons on 6 February 1799 and Lieutenant James V. Ball was appointed captain in his place. Act of 30 May 1796, in *Military Laws of the United States*, John F. Callan (Philadelphia, 1863) (hereafter referred to as *Military Laws*), p. 114; muster and pay rolls, U.S. Light Dragoons, 1784-1821, in National Archives, War Records Division, Record Group 94 (hereafter referred to as NA, RG 94).

² Act of 16 July 1798, in *Military Laws*, p. 127; Report, Sect. War to President, 5 January 1800, in *American State Papers, Military Affairs*, I, 139.

³ Printed circular, "Uniform for the Army of the United States," signed by James McHenry, 9 Jan. 1799, in NA, RG 98.

⁴ Letters, Billington to Hamilton, 22 July 1799, and Hamilton to Hodgdon, 13 Sept. 1799, both in Hamilton Papers, vols. 47 and 53 respectively, LC, MS Div.; letter, Hodgdon to Billington, 18 Sept. 1799 in Bk. No. 108, Discontinued Command Records, NA, RG 98; instructions, 1794-1800, in U.S. Army 3, LC, MS Div.



Reconstruction of the Dragoon private's coat of 1799-1801, by H. Charles McBarron, Jr. See also the coats described in *MC&H*, III, 46-48, 92-94.

The Secretary of War hesitated to approve this new uniform, as he feared that the price would be considerably higher than that of the old one, and he sent the pattern coat to the Superintendent of Military stores, Samuel Hodgdon, with the request that Hodgdon procure a statement from Billington that would show the difference in cost between "the old uniform and the one now produced." Hodgdon promptly procured the desired statement and sent it back to the Secretary, stating at the same time that he would await the Secretary's orders before authorizing Billington to proceed. Billington, who had apparently bought the materials needed to manufacture the coats as soon as the pattern coat had arrived in Philadelphia, now began to plague Hodgdon for a decision as to whether he could begin the manufacture of the coats. After being repeatedly put off by Hodgdon, who could not get McHenry to make up his mind (a very natural and prudent indecision when one realizes that there were no men in service except for those of the two old troops already provided with uniforms for 1799) Billington, on 7 October 1799, informed Hodgdon that he was going ahead with the manufacture of the new coats. Hodgdon thereupon stated that he could give Billington no orders to the contrary as he had heard nothing from McHenry.

When the Secretary of War received the news of Billington's unilateral action he was very upset. He reiterated his fears regarding the high price of the new

coats and now requested that Hodgdon ascertain from Billington if the substitution of black cloth for the black velvet, and of binding for the lace on the pattern coat, would not materially lower the price; a new estimate based on these substitutions was requested. However McHenry seems to have overlooked completely to order Billington to cease manufacturing the dragoon coats. Therefore, when Billington received the queries regarding possible savings that might be accomplished if cheaper materials were substituted, he replied that the difference would not amount to more than fifty cents a coat and went on making the new dragoon coats according to the original Hamilton pattern. This was apparently the wise procedure as far as Billington was concerned, for nothing further seems to have been heard from McHenry on the subject, and Hodgdon on 13 March 1800, reporting on the cavalry clothing, mentioned that all the cavalry clothing in the stores was of the new pattern—in other words, green coats with black velvet facings.

The pattern of the new coat adopted is illustrated here, and the manufacture of the new dragoon coats has been traced. This still leaves open the question as to whether these green coats, faced with black were ever issued to and worn by the enlisted men of the two troops in service. To this only a qualified affirmation can be given at present.

During the last quarter of 1799 Tench Francis, the Purveyor of Public Supplies, turned in to John Harris, Military Store Keeper at Philadelphia, 30 Dragoon sergeant, 4 Dragoon music and 380 Dragoon private coats. Presumably this was Billington's contract delivery of the new dragoon uniform, since his was the only contract for dragoon uniforms in force at this time. Harris about then made two issues of Dragoon clothing to fill the requisitions for the year 1800, the first on 30 November 1799 and the other on 4 January 1800. As both of these shipments included yellow epaulettes, which were called for in the new dragoon uniform regulations, instead of the white epaulettes worn with the old uniform, it can be assumed that the new green coats were sent. These coats were then worn until late 1801 when infantry clothing was issued to the two dismounted Dragoon companies.⁵

⁵ Letters, Hodgdon to McHenry, 2, 7, 9, and 11 Oct. 1799; letters, Hodgdon to Billington, 2 Oct. 1799 and 17 Sept. 1800, all in Bk. No. 108, Discontinued Command Records, NA, RG 98; letter, Sect. War to Gen. Wm. Irvine, 30 April 1801, in NA, RG 107; statement of supplies issued to Captain James Taylor and James V. Ball at South West Point, Tennessee, Oct., Nov., and Dec. 1801, in Superintendent Military Stores Journal, 1797-1802, in NA, RG 92.

THE LEATHER FORAGE CAP AT WEST POINT

by Frederick P. Todd

It is known that American soldiers at one period in the early 19th century wore soft leather forage caps, but the extent to which this practice was followed, and by what corps, is still somewhat of a mystery. Using the invaluable data collected by the late Colonel Allen L. Keyes, one time Director of the West Point Museum, it is possible to launch an investigation of this subject via the cadet uniform worn at the U.S. Military Academy.

Regulations for clothing, issued in 1824, specified that each cadet keep himself supplied with, among other things, "one forage cap, of gray cloth."¹ Apparently these caps were not received until the next year, for Battalion Orders No. 40, 22 April 1825, read:

Mr. DeWitt [the clothier at the Academy] having received a partial supply of the forage-caps adopted for use of the Corps, Cadets of the 1st & 2d classes will immediately supply themselves; each cadet so soon as he is supplied with a forage-cap will put some mark by which he will be able to recognize it, upon his citizen's hat and turn it into the Qr. Mr. and is prohibited having a hat of the citizen's form in his possession, thereafter, when present at the institution.²

From this date on there are frequent references to the cloth cap, which was soon supplied to the entire Battalion of Cadets. The above quotation makes it quite

¹ "Regulations of the United States Military Academy at West Point," in *General Regulations of the Army*, article 78, reprinted in *American State Papers, Military Affairs*, II, 648-57.

² All Battalion Orders cited are in MS order books in USMA Library.

clear that this was the first forage cap to be adopted officially at the Academy. The best idea of its pattern can be gained from the colored engraving made by J. Hill in 1828, after a painting by George Catlin. It seems to be the familiar flat-topped, wide-crowned model, commonly associated with the Mexican War.

This cloth forage cap was worn until 1834. Orders No. 87, U.S.M.A., 23 July 1833, read as follows:

All forage caps to be issued to the Cadets hereafter, will be of the pattern now worn by the officers of the Army, the material to be of goats' skin.

To prevent unnecessary expense, the old pattern cap is permitted to be worn until the 1st of April next; from and after which date every cadet will appear in a cap of the new pattern.

The new leather caps were issued in time and donned in April. Orders on 1 August warned cadets that they must be "worn open at top." A contemporary observer reported the new caps as being "of morocco with a visor, made in three parts—the visor, the front half, the rear half. These folded so that it could be carried flat under the arm. The crease ran from ear to ear . . ."³ An engraving of a view up the Hudson River from the Academy, reproduced here, shows a cadet in the foreground wearing one of these leather caps. This engraving was executed by James Smillie in 1836, after a painting by Robert W. Weir, for the *New York Mirror*.

³ *The Centennial of the United States Military Academy . . .*, Wash., GPO, 1904, II, 93-4.



View from West Point, engraved by James Smillie, 1836, showing a cadet in the foreground wearing a leather forage cap.



Above: Collapsible leather forage cap in the collections of the National Museum; shown open.

Below: Same, shown folded flat.



The leather forage cap was priced at \$2.00 in 1839.⁴ By that date plans apparently had been made to replace it with a new pattern, for Major Richard Delafield, then the Superintendent of the Military Academy, wrote defending it: "The leather forage cap now in use, although a most unbecoming one, has great merit on the score of economy and durability. I would not change it, particularly as the cloth cap now prescribed for our use is very uncomfortable, sitting as it does close to the crown of the head, leaving no space for air room for the hair to assume its accustomed position."⁵

Delafield's words went unheeded, for in the last half of 1840 forage caps of the "new pattern" were inspected for issue.⁶ It is interesting to observe that these also were priced at \$2.00, hence the new cloth cap could hardly have been adopted as a measure of economy. The style of this cap is not specified, but it has been illustrated in several prints, notably the one in the *United States Military Magazine* of January 1841. Again we have the familiar "Mexican War" pattern, with wide crown and sharply sloping visor, of gray cloth with a black band.

We can now summarize the information available on the use of the leather forage cap in the Army, outside the Military Academy. Reference has already been made above to its being worn "by the officers of the Army" in July 1833. On 2 May of the same year it had been prescribed as part of the initial uniform of the Regiment of Dragoons, established that year.⁷ The description reads: "FORAGE CAP—Black leather, like pattern furnished Clothing Bureau." *Army Regulations* of 1836 again prescribed the "black leather" cap for Dragoon officers and men.⁸ Provisions were made for adding a band of black fur to the cap in winter, and this practice, it may be noted, was also observed at West Point in 1836 and thereafter.

The Dragoon forage cap of black leather appears to be of the same pattern as that worn by cadets. It is illustrated in Theo. F. Rodenbough's history of the 2d Dragoons as being worn in 1836 and 1841, and there are other references to its use during the Seminole War.⁹ It thus seems safe to say that this leather forage cap was worn by U.S. Dragoons between 1833 and about 1841.

⁴ "Proceedings of a Board of Inspectors of Clothing, &c.," July-Dec. 1839, MS in USMA Library.

⁵ To Col. J. G. Totten, 20 Sept. 1839, MS in Superintendent's Letter Book, USMA Library.

⁶ "Proceedings," *op. cit.*, July-Dec. 1840.

⁷ Orders 38, AGO, 2 May 1833.

⁸ Article 52, par. 13.

⁹ *From Everglade to Canyon*, N.Y., 1875, p. 17. A reproduction of this may also be seen in *The Story of the U. S. Cavalry*, by Herr and Wallace, Boston, 1953.



Dark gray cloth cap, marked "1836" and "Hampton, New Hampshire." It has leather seams and a brass visor, and is collapsible; apparently a militia version of the Regular Army leather forage cap. From the collection of Waverly P. Lewis.

There is an actual sample of this cap in the National Museum; it is of soft, pliable leather which folds into small compass without difficulty.

The extent to which Infantry and Artillery wore the leather cap cannot be determined without an examination of the records of the Quartermaster General at the National Archives in Washington. This must wait the research of another member. Furthermore, some caps in the collection of Member Waverly P. Lewis suggests that the unusual ear-to-ear form of the leather forage cap took root in militia styles, probably being worn by some corps as their only headdress.

THE PLATES

THE FRENCH REGIMENT OF CARIGNAN-SALLIERES CANADA, 1665 - 1668

(Plate No. 85)

Certainly no unit is more deserving of representation in this series than the Carignan-Sallières Regiment, which is considered by French authorities to be the first regular unit of regimental size to have all ranks clothed in uniform color and trim; the first to be equipped with the fusil and plug bayonet, to the exclusion of a compliment of muskets, pikes and half pikes in each company; and the first large regular unit of any army to be sent for service on the North American Continent.¹

The Regiment was raised in 1644 by Thomas François, Prince of Carignan, who assumed nominal command; actual leadership was vested in a relatively junior colonel, Baron de Val d'Isère. In 1645 the corps fought at Vigevano and Mora; the following year at Mt. Argentario and Salucas. Still later, it left garrison duty in the Piedmont for the War of the Fronde, and by 1652 was fighting under Turenne. There, at the battle of Faubourg St-Antoine, Val d'Isère was killed.

M. d'Aloigny de Rochefort succeeded to command, and in 1659 the Prince of Carignan gave title of the regiment to the King of France, who retained the name of the founder and raised the regimental strength to ten companies, totalling approximately 500 men. By 1665 M. de Chastelard, Marquis de Sallières had become senior captain, and it was he who became colonel in time to lead the Regiment to Canada.

The first four companies embarked from La Rochelle in late April 1665, arriving in Quebec on 18 and 19 June. An additional four companies from the regiments of Chambelle, Orléans, Poitou and Allier were transferred from their parent regiments to the rolls of Carignan-Sallières, and from their Antilles stations to Quebec, arriving on the 30th of the month. By 12 September the last eight companies with Governor Courcelles and the Intendent, Jean Talon had arrived in Canada from the mother country.

The two principal sources upon which the details

¹ Régis Roy and Gerard Malchelosse, *Le Régiment de Carignan*, Canadian Historical Society, 1925 (Copy in Library, Fort Ticonderoga Museum); Commandant J. Chalufour, "Le Régiment de Carignan-Sallières," original MS in Fort Ticonderoga Museum. Source materials for the Roy-Malchelosse account are largely in Canadian holdings, many from Jesuit historians of the period. Sources used by Cmdt. Chalufour are from French archives, primarily of the Charente-Maritime and the Sallières memoirs and reports.

of the plate are based agree on the major items of uniforms, arms and equipments furnished to the Carignan-Sallières Regiment during its three years of service in Canada.² The headgear was a wide brimmed, black felt "Caudebec" with sky blue braid around the brim, and, for the officers, sky blue and jonquil yellow ribbons. The outer coat for all ranks was of coarse brown cloth with pockets set low in the skirt and turned back cuffs lined with sky blue; buttons, cloth covered. Sky blue knit stockings were pulled up over the brown breeches at the knee, and gartered with blue and jonquil for officers, with brown for other ranks. As stated heretofore, the arms were the fusil and plug bayonet; the latter suspended in a leather scabbard from a frogged buff leather waist belt. The powder and priming flasks, of brass bound wood, were suspended on red woolen cords; and the fair leather bullet pouch was fastened to the belt. Officers carried their straight-bladed hangers suspended from wide leather baldrics covered with sky blue silk in herringbone pattern.³

Service in the rigors of Canadian winters brought the inevitable adaptation of native gear for campaigning; the yellow woolen neck scarf; the Indian blanket of pale yellow, striped red and blue; fur toque; buck skin leggings and quill embroidered moccasins; and finally the brightly colored "ceinture fléchée" woven by the habitants. The hand axe was essential to living and fighting in Canadian forests, and, although Sallières records that his troops had difficulties in learning the art of snowshoeing during their first campaign, the reports of subsequent winter marches note that the regiment became highly proficient in the use of "raquettes."⁴

The regimental colors are described as having "a white cross, divided into four quarters, red and blue, in triangles, base to base."⁵

Harry Larter

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*; C. W. Jefferys, *The Picture Gallery of Canadian History*, Toronto, 1942.

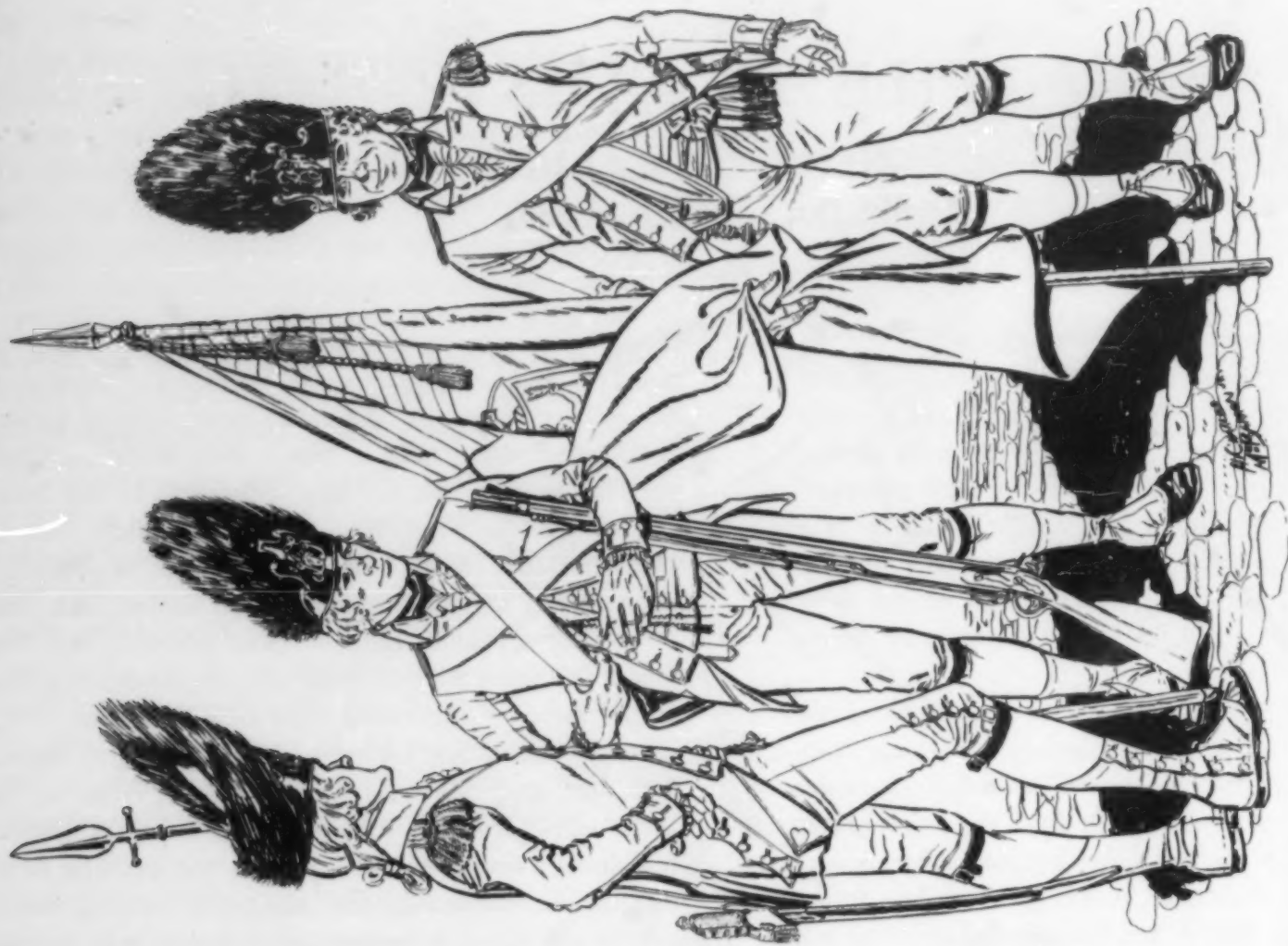
⁴ Albert Depréaux and L. Rousselot, *Les uniformes de troupes coloniales, 1666 à 1875*. Plate 1 of this series, published for the Exposition Coloniale Internationale, Paris, 1931, shows a soldier of the Carignan-Sallières in his winter gear. The details are based on *Relations de Jésuits, lettres de la Mère Marie de l'Incarnation et journaux de l'expédition*. The actual reconstruction of the equipment of this soldier was accomplished by Le Maison Révillon Frères, Paris; Miss Eustella Burke, Montreal; and l'Ecole des Métiers de Gourdan-Polignan (Hte-Garonne).

⁵ Chalufour MS, and Lajoux, *op. cit.*



Ensign
Fusiliers, winter garrison dress and winter campaign dress

The French Regiment of Carignan - Sallieres, Canada, 1665-1668



Officer
Fusilier
Ensign

Independent Boston Fusiliers, 1787 - circa 1810

INDEPENDENT BOSTON FUSILIERS, 1787 – CIRCA 1810

(Plate No. 86)

A writer in the *Boston Centinel* of 18 November 1786 commented that "The late commotions in this state have awaked that spirit of military ambition, which so nobly distinguished us in 1774 and 1775. In all parts of the country, troops and companies of horse and foot are raising. In this town (Boston), which a few weeks since had to lament the want of a single company of soldiery, besides the standing militia, can now produce four companies, almost the whole of which are completely disciplined and equipped."¹

By "commotions" the writer meant, of course, Shay's Rebellion, which had taken place in the autumn of that year. The four companies mentioned were the Ancient and Honorable Artillery and the Independent Company of Cadets, both revived in 1786 after eleven years of relative inactivity during the Revolution, and two new corps called the Republican Volunteers and the Independent Light Infantry. These last two survived only a few years, but the first are still active.²

The writer then went on to mention one more military corps: "A company by the name of the Massachusetts Fusilliers is also now forming with rapidity, and bids fair to be completed in a short time." Thus we first hear of the Independent Boston Fusiliers, as it was actually called at the time.³ Organization meetings had begun that autumn and early in 1787 Thomas Adams and 53 others petitioned the Legislature for a charter for "a military company with power to choose their own officers."⁴

On 11 May Governor James Bowdoin approved this request, and on the 4th of July following he stood with the members on the slope of Bunker Hill and there presented them their official charter. The Independent Fusiliers then marched to the home of John Hancock, soon to be Governor, where they partook of a liberal inaugural dinner. In this connection, as their historian later wrote: "... by no means least of their attainments is the masterly skill with which they have maintained the custom of dining together."⁵

¹ Quoted in Zachariah G. Whitman, *An Historical Sketch of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company* . . . Boston, 1820, pp. 68-72.

² The Cadets are now the 126th Tank Battalion; see *MC&H*, II, 28 and 54.

³ Actually, there were still other uniformed Boston companies in various stages of organization at this time. See Frederick M. Cutler, *The Old First* . . . Boston, 1917, *passim*.

⁴ Cutler, *op. cit.*, pp. 9, 89-90.

⁵ *Ibid.*



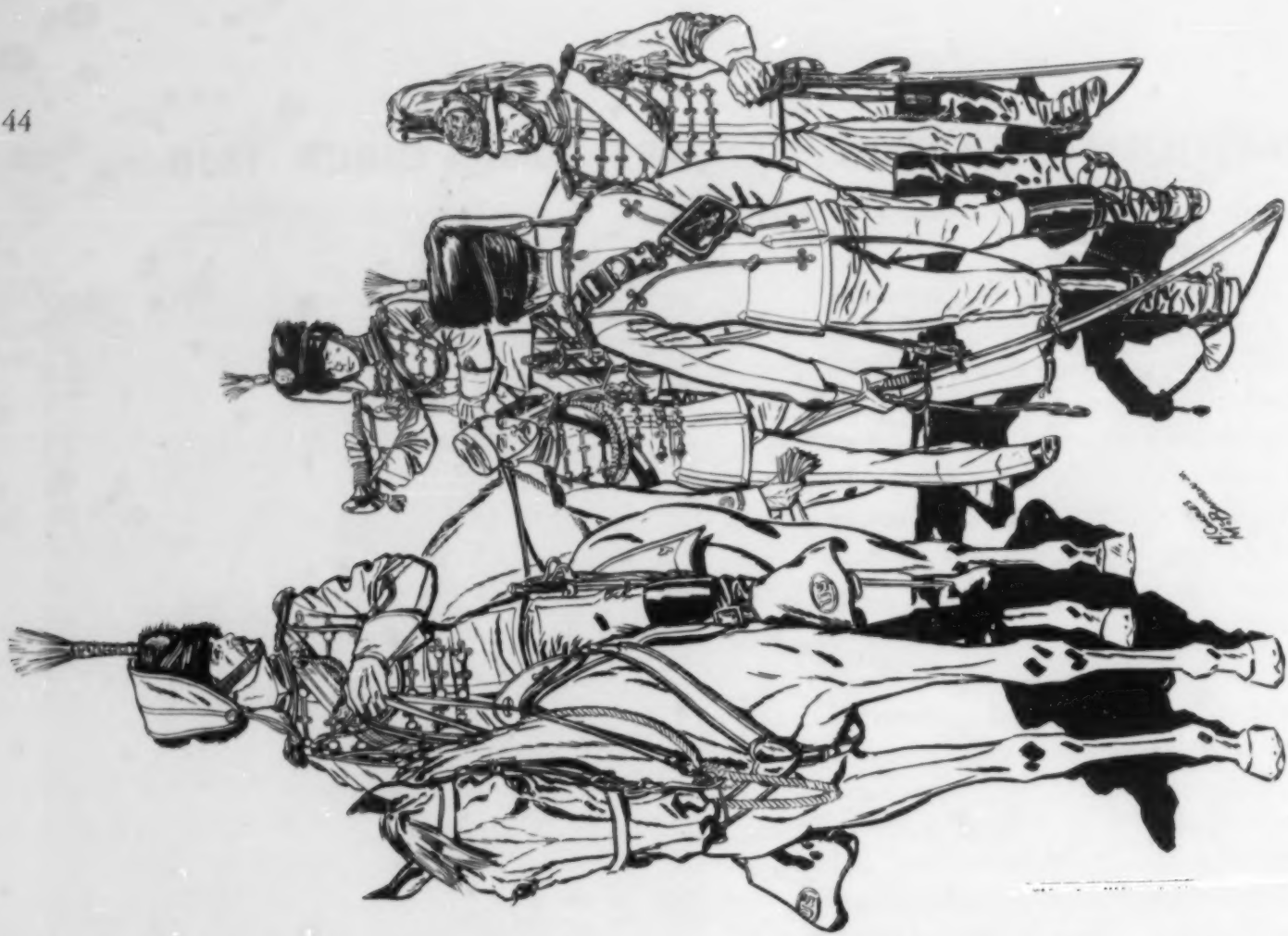
The man elected as the first Captain of the Fusiliers was William Turner, a dancing-master. Little wonder the corps was noted for many decades thereafter for maintaining the most successful and distinguished annual military ball in all Boston. In the Civil War the Fusiliers furnished five companies for war service, always maintaining a home organization; a half century later it became part of the First Massachusetts, where it still remains.⁶

From 1787 to well into the 20th century the Fusiliers wore scarlet coats for full dress. In the Peabody Museum at Salem is a delicate pitcher of Liverpool ware which shows us the initial uniform, a close copy of the British fusilier uniform of the day. Why it (or, for that matter, the designation "fusilier") were adopted is not known. The pitcher shows other details of interest, the flag of Massachusetts, and the motto of the corps "Aut vincere aut mori" (Conquer or die). There also are Masonic symbols, suggesting other reasons behind the establishment of the command.

One final point of interest may be made. The charter granted the Fusiliers in 1787 gave them the exclusive privilege of having four commissioned officers. As an "Ancient Corps" this privilege is still, in theory, legally guaranteed the company by Congress.

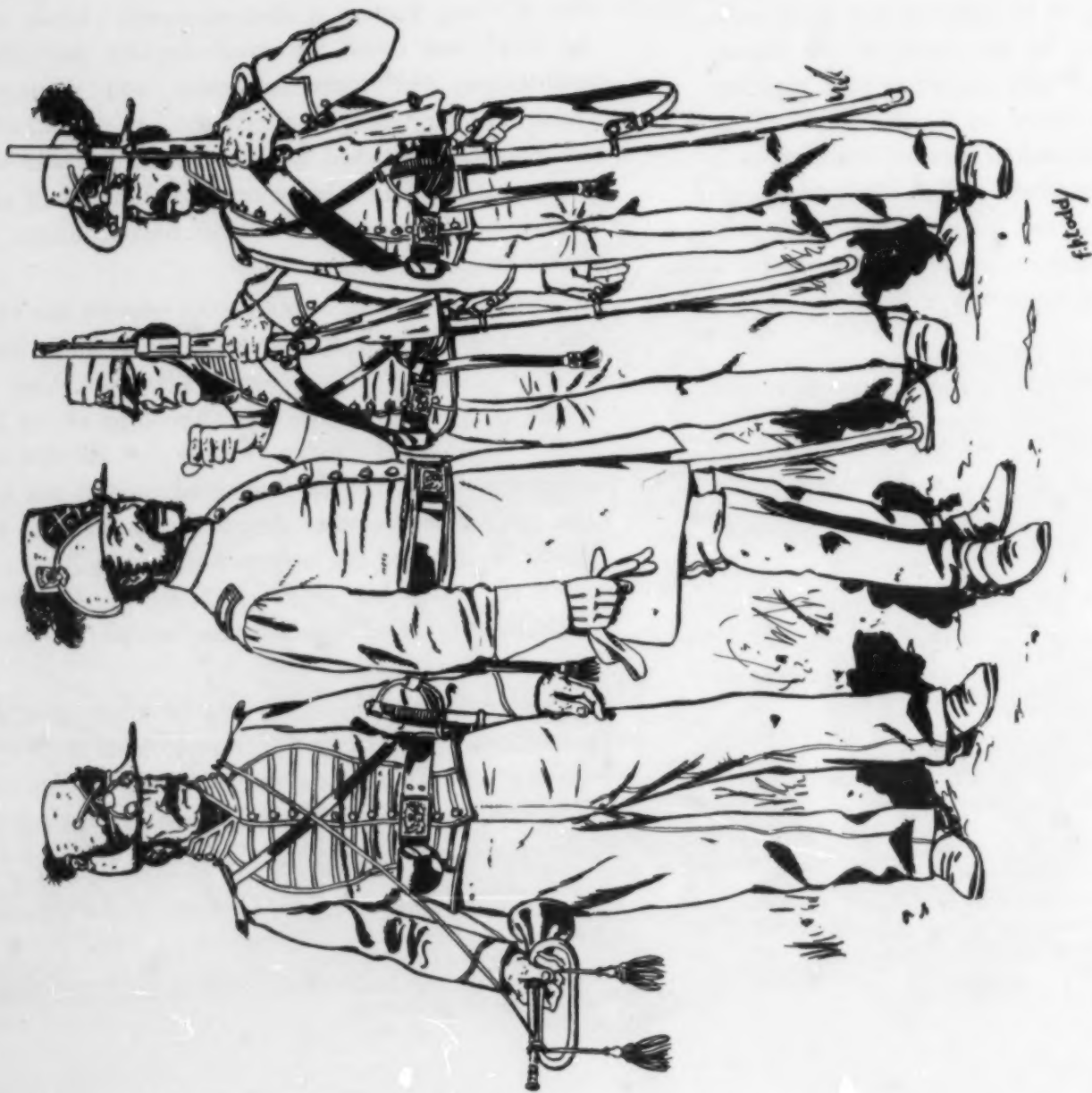
H. Charles McBarron, Jr.
Frederick P. Todd

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 56; it is an element of the 704th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion of Boston.



Trooper, dress Bagpiper, full dress Trooper, full dress Trooper, with helmet
Officer, full dress

The First City Troop of Cleveland, Ohio, 1877-1881



Musician Company Officer Private, fatigue Corporal, full dress

2nd U. S. Cavalry, 1855-1861

2ND U.S. CAVALRY, 1855 - 1861

(Plate No. 87)

The creation of the present 4th and 5th Cavalry Regiments (as the 1st and 2nd Regiments) in 1855 came as a result of the problems posed by the vast territory we had added to the Union after the War with Mexico. By 1855 there was little or no difference of opinion in Congress as to the need of a larger mounted force, but there was considerable disagreement on how it should be secured. Feeling was strong for a temporary corps of mounted rangers instead of the "school-house officers and pot-house soldiers" which many Congressmen felt made up the Regular Army. That two regiments were constituted is in no small measure due to Jefferson Davis, Secretary of War during the period.¹

Partially to avoid the idea of a permanent increase in the Army, the two new regiments were called "cavalry" and maintained as a separate arm of the service, distinct from the dragoons and mounted rifles. Davis maintained a close interest in the new outfits, and appears to have suggested several innovations and experiments. Indeed, the experimental character of the Cavalry regiments was for some years their most noticeable characteristic. The historian of the Second describes their first arms and accoutrements in these words:²

"Colonel Johnston and Major Hardee were appointed on the 9th of July, conjointly with the field-officers of the First Cavalry, members of a Cavalry Equipment Board which convened at Washington. The board submitted a report and recommendations, which were published to the army, (G.O. 13, A.G.O., August 15, 1855), and it may be of interest to know, without quoting the order in detail, how the cavalry was to be armed and equipped. Three squadrons of each regiment were to be armed with the rifle-carbine of the pattern manufactured at the Springfield Armory, and one squadron of each with the movable-stock carbine, with the barrel ten or twelve inches long, as might be found best by experiment. One squadron of the First Cavalry was to be armed with the breech-loading Merrill carbine, and one squadron of the Second Cavalry with the breech-loading Perry carbine. Colt's navy revolvers and dragoon sabres for both regiments; one squadron of each to be provided with gutta-percha cartridge boxes. The present leather sabre belt and carbine sling were adopted. The Grimsley equipments, as used by the other mounted corps, were

to be furnished to four squadrons in each regiment; the other squadrons were to be supplied with the Campbell saddle, with certain modifications not necessary to enumerate. The saddle was to be brass-mounted and provided with wooden stirrups. The *schabraque* was discontinued for the use of officers. A gutta-percha talma was furnished, having large, loose sleeves and extending to the knee. The hats for the officers and men were the same as in use when the new uniform was adopted in 1872. In other respects the uniform and equipments of the cavalry regiments were the same as used by the dragoons, except the color of the trimmings, which was yellow instead of orange."

The Merrill and Perry carbines mentioned were both rifled, percussion breech-loaders of new and more or less experimental models.³ The government had purchased 170 carbines from Merrill, Latrobe & Thomas, of Baltimore, Md., in July 1855; and 200 from Alonzo D. Perry, of Newark, N. J., in April of the same year.

The two regiments were the first to wear felt hats instead of caps. The issue was considered "provisional" at first, but three years later, in 1858, these hats were ordered for all the army.⁴ Service wags called them "Davis" hats after the Secretary of War, or "Hardee" hats after Major William J. Hardee, of the Second, who appears to have been instrumental in designing them. Another name was the "Fra Diavolo" hat, in honor of the distinctive headdress of the brigand in Auber's comic opera.

With the hat was worn from one to three black ostrich feathers (depending on rank), a brass eagle insignia, crossed sabers also of brass, and cords. The cords for officers were of gold braid, while enlisted men wore ones of yellow worsted.

Horses for the 2nd Cavalry were first purchased in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky, at an average price of \$150. apiece. The mounts were assigned to companies as follows: A, grays; B and E, sorrels; C, D, F and I, bays; G and H, browns; and K roans. These distinctive colors were retained by the Regiment throughout its service in Texas, up to the Civil War.⁵

Frederick P. Todd

¹ George F. Price, *Across the Continent with the Fifth Cavalry*, N. Y., 1883, pp. 11-22.

² *Ibid.*, 29-30.

³ See Arcadi Gluckman, *United States Muskets, Rifles and Carbines*, Buffalo, N. Y., 390-94.

⁴ GO 13, AGO, 15 August 1855; GO 3, AGO, 24 March 1858.

⁵ Price, *op. cit.*, 30-31

THE FIRST CITY TROOP OF CLEVELAND, OHIO 1877 - 1881

(Plate No. 88)

The great railroad strike of 1877 impressed a group of prominent civic, business, and military leaders of Cleveland with the need for a strong local militia. As a result, an independent company of cavalry, called "The First City Troop of Cleveland," was founded on October 10 of that year.

The official dress uniform adopted at the time of organization, and used continuously until World War II, was patterned after a hussar dress uniform of the Austrian army. Description of the officers' jacket, from the by-laws of the organization, reads as follows:

... dark blue cloth, with skirt 6 to 8 inches long, slashed on sides and rear, and bound with black silk braid three quarters inch wide; three rows of seven large gilt buttons on breast, connected by a facing of two rows of gold braid one-eighth of an inch wide, terminating on either side with clover-leaf knot and in front with a button loop; stand-up collar one inch high, with one small gilt button three inches from opening and connected therewith by two rows of gilt braid, terminating at button with small clover-leaf knot; at base of collar one strand of gold braid, with large clover-leaf knot in rear center; on cuff of each sleeve a single knot of three strands of gold braid. Double rows of gold braid extending from shoulder blades down the rear seams to the tail, terminating on either end with clover-leaf knot. Two gold frog buttons in the rear, at the intersection of the waist seam and braid.

Jackets for enlisted men followed the same pattern except that the trimmings were of yellow mohair cord, with the addition of shoulder knots of the same material. Buglers' jacket was scarlet instead of dark blue, and lacked the black silk braid binding. Tight fitting trousers of light blue cloth carried a yellow stripe down the outer seam; 1½ inches wide for officers, 1¼ inches for non-commissioned officers, and 1 inch for troopers.

Dress headgear was a black bearskin busby, mounted over a stiff leather frame. It was seven inches high, with the bottom edge an inch lower in the rear than in the front. The top was flat, and covered by a scarlet busby bag, which hung over the right side to about an inch below the bottom of the busby, and which was trimmed around the edge and down the center by a cord ¼ inch in diameter (gold for officers and yellow for enlisted men).

The busby chin strap was leather, covered by a chain of flat brass links, and was attached to brass buttons on either side of the busby. A white horsehair plume 5½ inches high, bound by a brass socket at the bottom, was fastened beneath a large yellow mohair button at the top front of the busby. Officers wore the same busby,

with gold in place of yellow or brass. Officers' busby plumes were about 10 inches high, and in addition to the brass socket were bound by gold braid around the lower 4 inches of the plume.

A pillbox type forage cap of dark blue, with a yellow band 1½ inches wide (gold braid for officers) and a thin leather chin strap 3/16 inch wide, was an alternate dress headgear. When this cap was worn instead of the busby, a heavy yellow mohair braided cord with tassels was worn on the jacket, and was arranged in a fashion similar to that of the busby cords, in reverse. In the 1880's a white leather carbine sling was sometimes used in place of the black sling with cartouche box. During the same period the standard cavalry helmet seems to have been used alternately in place of the busby, and the boots (or possibly leather leggings) rose above the knee in front, as shown in the figure on the right of the plate.

The horses were black, with the exception of the occasional use of a white or gray for buglers, and the outfit was commonly known as "The Black Horse Troop". When expanded into a squadron in 1925, Troop A continued to ride blacks, while Troop B was mounted on bays.

Rated as one of the outstanding cavalry units in the country, the enlisted personnel furnished a very high percentage of officers in national emergencies, with the result that the Troop usually formed the nucleus of the regiments to which it was assigned in wartime. It was admitted to the Ohio National Guard in 1887, and in 1895 officially dropped its original name and became "Troop A, Ohio National Guard." The original independent organization was continued throughout its history, and in 1925 became "The First Cleveland Cavalry", while officially designated as Troop A and B, 107th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio National Guard.

The unit's Federal service comprises: Spanish-American War in 1st Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, Mexican Border in 11th Provisional Cavalry, World War I in 135th Field Artillery Regiment, and World War II in 107th Cavalry Regiment (mechanized in 1942). The present organization is assigned to the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio National Guard.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

D. Lyle Thoburn

COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY CAP PLATE, 1815-1816

There recently came into my possession a most unusual and interesting cap plate, which appears to be the first pattern worn by United States Military Academy cadets. It is illustrated here.

This brass plate, $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{8}$ ", with clipped corners, evidences similarities to other plates known to be of the period 1812-1821. The thunderbolts held in the eagle's talons are characteristic of War of 1812 cap plates. Eagles before and after the period of that war hold arrows in their talons. The form and style of the eagle indicates it to be the work of the same die sinker who made the cap plate for the 1st Regiment of Riflemen, about 1812-1821, illustrated in *MC&H*, I, No. 2, on page 7.

The scroll over the eagle's head is inscribed: "MILITARY ACADEMY." In the period 1812-1815 there was no military academy in the United States other than the one at West Point, N. Y., which leads to the conclusion that this must be a cap plate worn at the United States Military Academy at that time. I learned that Captain Alden Partridge, then Superintendent, had introduced leather caps (along with new gray uniforms) in 1815 and had sought the approval of the Secretary of War for the change. No action was taken by the Secretary until 4 September 1816, when most of Part-



ridge's innovations were approved, although the leather caps were not. Partridge and Brigadier General J. G. Swift, Commanding the Corps of Engineers, both wrote the Secretary urging that the leather caps be authorized, but the Secretary was adamant.¹

26 September 1816

Sir,

A few days previously to my leaving Washington last winter, I understood from you that the Cadets uniform then recommended met your approbation. The proposed Dress Cap being composed of various parts, I had concluded that they would be cheaper if made by contract than if procured in any other way. I therefore directed the caps to be prepared, accordingly 200 strong leather caps have been made.

The late order for cadets uniform has placed me in a disagreeable dilemma, as the caps are on hand with the maker. I will thank you to inform me what can be done in the case, as the caps must be paid for and either worn out by the Cadets, sold by auction or laid by as useless.

I annex a memorandum of the expense incurred —	
200 Caps, Cockades & Gilt Eagles, Bands,	
at 3.75	\$ 750
200 Plates (one enclosed) at 75 cents	150
200 Brass Chains, at 87½ & 200 Plumes	
at 75	325
Casting the Plate, Sinking the Die	165

\$6.95 for each cap complete to last	
2 years —	Dolls \$1390

I have the honor . . .
J. G. Swift

To the Honorable
William H. Crawford
Secretary of War²

This letter suggests that the caps and plates were not then actually being worn. On 5 October the Secretary replied that: "If the caps cannot be applied to the use of the army, such disposition of them must be made as will produce the least loss to the public . . . The arrangement of this business is referred to your discretion."

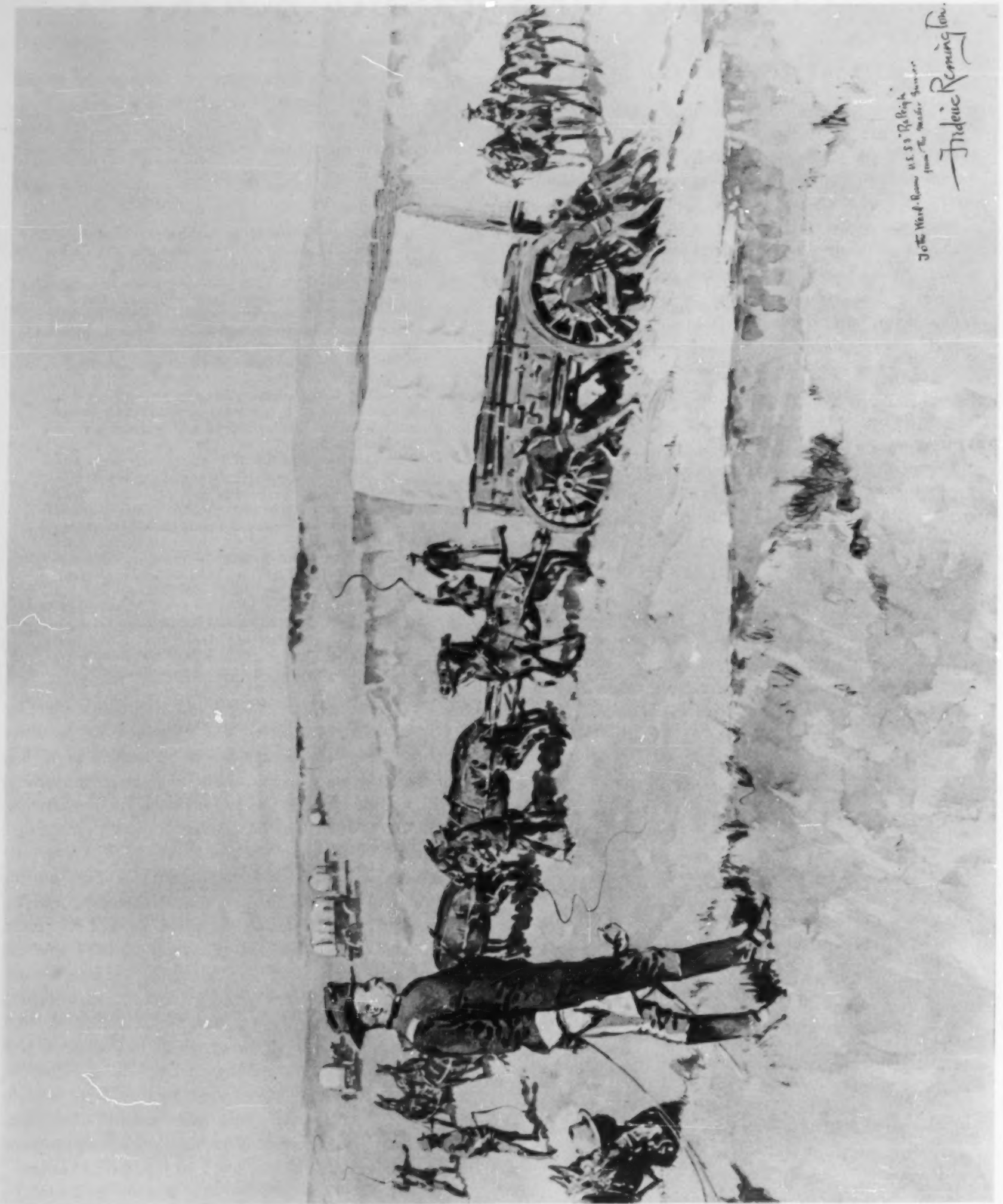
Some while after obtaining the plate I carefully cleaned both sides and discovered, scratched on the rear, "G. W. Frost, 1815." Here, obviously, was an excellent guide to dating the plate. George W. Frost, of Virginia, was admitted as a cadet in 1814. He did not graduate, but from what can be learned from records at the Academy, he remained there for much if not all of 1815.

Combining all these data it seems reasonable to conclude that in late 1815 and early 1816 the cadets at the Military Academy were issued and probably actually wore leather caps on which were fastened brass plates of the style shown here. What happened to them thereafter is not known.

Waverly P. Lewis

¹ *MC&H*, IV, 10-12.

² Sect. of War's letter files, National Archives.



To the Ward-Romer U.S. 89th Cavalry
from the "Master Gunner"
Frederic Remington

AN UNPUBLISHED REMINGTON DRAWING

The collection of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum contains a black and white wash drawing, the technique and signature of which clearly show it to be an original Remington. There is no record of how it got to the Museum, nor is there any information on when or where he made the sketch. The inscription over his signature only serves to add a touch of mystery to the picture. It reads:

To the Ward-Room U.S.S. "Raleigh"
from the Master Gunner

Frederic Remington

There is no record that Remington was aboard the Raleigh during the period of the Spanish-American War, although he was in the Iowa, and later ashore at Santiago. The Raleigh was one of the ships in Dewey's squadron at Manila Bay at the time the artist was in Cuba.

No mention is made in Harold McCracken's book on Remington of his being aboard the Raleigh, and apparently this sketch has never been reproduced in any publication.

Ursula Hornbrook, Director of the Remington Art Memorial, suggests that Remington may have been aboard the Raleigh after the War. There is, in the collection at the Memorial, a plate with the wardroom imprint of U.S.S. Raleigh, which is apparently a bona fide souvenir of a visit to the ship by the artist. It was usual for him to give drawings as gifts, and this one was evidently such an offering for the hospitality of the officers of the ship.

It is amusing to note that Remington put one too many "S" in the official designation of the ship, when he came to sign the drawing, which is reproduced herewith. Possibly he thought the letters were intended to stand for "United States Steam Ship."

George B. Keester

CALIFORNIA PRESENTATION SWORD, 1871

There was the inscription on the scabbard: "Presented to Maj. Oscar Woodhams by the Sumner Light Guard, Co. E 1st Infy, N.G.C., Sept. 25th 1871." And there was the date, 1862, and "Collins & Co." on the blade, which also bore an engraving of a military encampment and the words, "In Union there is strength." Very interesting, we thought, but unless we know where or why, a sword of this kind is of little importance.

Mrs. John Nicholas Brown gave us the opening clue:¹ The Sumner Light Guard was one of San Francisco's

¹ Anne S. K. Brown, *Some San Francisco Uniforms of 1870*, MC&H, IV, 1-7.

stylish militia units included in the 1st Regt. 2nd Brigade, National Guard, with a Captain, three Lieutenants, and about 60 to 80 enlisted men.² At this time they met or drilled at the "Turn Verein Hall", a German-American gymnasium on Bush St. From 1867, as he rose from clerk to owner of the "New Orleans Bonded Warehouse", 104 California St., the original owner of the sword marched from 2nd Lt. to Captaincy of his Company in '69.³

The *Daily Alta California* of Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1871, bears the following notice:

SWORD PRESENTATION

A very pleasant affair occurred on Monday evening, at the Armory of the First Regiment of National Guard. Major Oscar Woodhams, formerly Captain of Company E, Sumner Guard, was made the recipient of an elegant sword, accompanied with sash and shoulder straps. The presentation was made by Harrison Chick, on behalf of the Sumner Guard, who alluded in feeling terms to the long and pleasant association, which was now to be partially severed by the promotion of their late Captain. The ceremony of presentation over, the officers and members were invited to the officer's quarters to pledge the new Major, and to renew assurances of their high regard for him as a soldier and gentleman.

His promotion placed Woodhams on the regimental staff, accounting for the separation from his Company, but what caused the especial warmth that his promotion elicited from his fellows? Some reason for it may be found in the accounts of the newspapers of the previous summer. In the *California Advertiser* on June 24, 1871, was the news item, "... The militia has been ordered out to suppress a disturbance among the miners at Sutter Creek. The latter have struck for higher wages." Again, on July 1st: "The Amador Miners' League have concluded not to oppose the military. The Sheriff seems to be in hot water with both parties, and some of his bondsmen, it is said, propose withdrawing their security." And again, on the 8th: "... In Sutter Creek, many of the new workers are intimidated by threatening rioters, and consequently quit work in the mines. Those who remain in opposition to the wishes of the League, working pumps, etc., are protected by files of soldiers." And on the 15th: "... Captain Hughes has gone to Amador to relieve Captain Woodhams in command of a company of militia. The newspapers explain ...", followed by sly remarks about the abilities of relieving officer, veteran of "The Rebellion" (which Woodhams evidently was not). And in another part of the same issue: "... The inhabitants of Sutter Creek gave our

² *Rules and Regulations of the Sumner Light Guard, Co. I, 1st Regiment, 2nd Brigade California Militia, Organized San Francisco, Oct. 14, 1861*. San Francisco: (Bancroft Library, University of California).

³ Directories consulted: 1855-1895.

soldiers a surprise party well laden with delicacies; they took the camp by storm. Dancing and feasting, and a pleasant time generally." Only a week later (July 22nd), the whole contingent returned. "The Amador Army (sic!) have returned and had a reception from their brothers in arms." In another week: "... The Amador veterans are to be paid for their services immediately." Also in the same issue: "... The Amador trouble has been renewed." A mine clerk had been shot and severely wounded; two other men were killed. On August 5th, although there is mention of "more threatening letters. . .", also "... Sutter Creek is reported quiet." With this the incident evidently closed.

What was it? Well, it was one of the many strikes of the period, when remnants of that merry crew of gold and fame seekers were now reduced to fighting for a living wage as hands in the large, syndicate-owned mines. The chief threat to their existence was the mine-owners' resort to cheap Chinese labor. A league was formed, and the men went on strike. The mines, their pumps no longer manned, began to flood, and up to \$75,000 damage was estimated to the machinery, when the militia was called in to take the mine-owners' part, and replace a compromised and unpopular sheriff in keeping the peace. The League agreed to permit the operation of the pumps to prevent further damage to the machinery until an agreement could be worked out, and the pump-hands were protected from irate die-hards on either side by the lines of volunteer soldiers. This was not hard campaigning for the city soldiers, but one officer, returning to the city, died of "exposure."

One cannot help seeing in Woodham's role in the affair the kind of hand that must have endeared him to his fellow officers and men. He stepped into a difficult situation and evidently avoided ruffling any tempers; his influence may have been more positive than that, if the party given by the inhabitants was any indication of his diplomacy. It is noteworthy that he returned a week early, and that when his company followed, they were again wined and dined. He was Treasurer as well as Captain of the Sumner Guard; the men were paid promptly (at a time when funds were often raised among the men themselves for support of the militia, for want of support from the State). Woodhams was then promoted and put on the regimental staff, with a special presentation, of which he was sole recipient. The case seems pretty clear in his favor as hero of the hour in this summer campaign.

In 1875, he made Lieutenant Colonel, and was promoted full Colonel December 1, 1877. He retired from



the Guard May 15, 1880. About 1893, after serving the business world with the Empire Warehouse, and later as city agent for the Niagara Fire Insurance Company, he returned to Santa Clara, about fifty miles south of San Francisco, to spend the rest of his life in the quiet of the "Roble Alto Farm." We learn from a "mug book"⁴ that he was born in Newburgh, N. Y., on October 17, 1837. His father, Joseph, a miller and millwright recently immigrated from England, accepted in 1843 a position with Burdon & Co., in Chile, but brought his family on to San Francisco in 1850. The sandfleas and barflies of that wide-open town must not have appealed, for they soon moved to Santa Clara. There is a tombstone in the cemetery there which bears the inscription: "Col. Oscar Woodhams Aug. 17, 1837-Oct. 3, 1907. Native of New York."

Wyman Spalding

⁴ H. S. Foote (ed.) *Pen Pictures from the Garden of the World*. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1888. Photo courtesy of Eugene S. Jones, whose collection contains the Woodhams sword.

SWORD FIND IN NEW MEXICO

Another very interesting early military object has recently been acquired by the Museum of New Mexico. In 1952, the Museum obtained the important San Gabriel salade, noted in Volume IV, Number 2, *MC&H*. Now it also has the remains of a sword found early in 1954, in the banks of the Rio Grande, near Cochiti Pueblo.

The sword is of a type which is associated with the late 17th or early 18th centuries, and it is undoubtedly of Spanish origin. Particularly interesting are the iron grip and pommel, which are fashioned like those on bull-fighting swords of more recent date. The solid counter-guard is now bent sharply upward on the obverse side, thus altering somewhat the sword's appearance. The blade is straight and double-edged, with a single central fuller, and is $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide at the hilt. The overall length of the sword is $35\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The photograph shows the sword after it received preservative treatment at the National Park Service Museum Laboratory.

Harold L. Peterson

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SACKCLOTH AND ASHES DEPARTMENT

Correction: Sliding Belt Loops

(VOL. VI, No. 1)

Although it is not intended to retain a Sackcloth and Ashes Department as a regular feature of our Journal, it must be extended to this issue to correct an error in titling the illustration accompanying Mr. Stanley J. Olsen's valuable contribution, "Development of the Looped Cartridge Belt."

The wording below the drawing of the regulation belt of 1874 should be "leather sliding loops" and not "canvas sliding loops." The text of the article describes the loops correctly.

This is an editorial error by the undersigned. It occurred during a revision of Mr. Olsen's drawing (in the interest of increasing the size of the drawings of the belts) and therefore apologies are not only due to the membership in general but Mr. Olsen in particular.

We suggest that miniature painters and artists not only take particular note of this but employ their abilities in making a correction on the drawing as the word "canvas" can be cleanly removed with a good quality eraser and the correct word "leather" substituted with india ink.

Robert L. Miller



GAZETTE

The Secretary has announced the approval by the Board of Governors of the following ladies and gentlemen as active members of THE COMPANY:

Ernest Apfel, New York, New York
 Harry W. Baehr, Brooklyn, New York
 Frank E. Bivens, Jr., West Los Angeles, California
 H. Rollin Boynton, III, New York, New York
 Merton W. Field, St. Petersburg, Florida
 Richard G. Gooding, Wausau, Wisconsin
 Howard L. Goshorn, Jersey City, New Jersey
 John F. Groden, Lexington, Massachusetts
 James J. Hamilton, Rocky River, Ohio
 Earle D. Huff, Bridgeport, Connecticut
 Sam C. Jackson, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada
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 Earl Schenck Meirs, New York, New York
 R. Russell Miller, Dayton, Ohio
 Walter Millis, New York, New York
 Robert Duff Murray, Jr., Princeton, New Jersey
 A. S. Neilson, Kittery Point, Maine
 Carl Andrew Nissen, Jr., Columbus, Ohio
 John F. Owens, Whitestone, L. I., New York
 CWO George Arthur Schneider, Fort Dix, New Jersey
 James E. Serven, Santa Ana, California
 Alex G. Sinclair, Mount Vernon, New York
 General Charles P. Summerall, Aiken, S. C.
 Captain Frank C. Townsend, Elkhart, Indiana
 John M. Virden, Chevy Chase, Maryland
 Dr. Arthur W. von Deilen, Edgewater Park, New Jersey
 Kenneth P. Williams, Bloomington, Indiana
 John S. Wilson, New Hyde Park, New York
 Charles Woolley, Washington, D. C.

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All of us who attended the annual meeting in New York and saw Philip Medicus there, charming as always, happy, and apparently healthy, were indeed shocked to learn of his sudden death a few days later on 21 May.

Philip Medicus, a charter member of THE COMPANY, was known far and wide as the foremost collector of American swords. He began his collection some fourteen years ago shortly after he retired from business, and he eventually gathered almost 900 specimens, including many of the rarest types and others with significant historical associations. This collection, by far the most important in existence, will be maintained as a memorial to Mr. Medicus by his family. There could be none more fitting.

Philip Medicus' military interests ranged far and wide. He read extensively in American military history and at one time also owned extensive collections of American firearms, military headgear, dirks, patent models, medals, and pole arms. Most of these were disposed of in recent years because he feared they would

become a burden to his family upon his death. The pole arms are now in the West Point Museum, a tribute to the wisdom with which they were selected.

Those of us who were privileged to know Philip Medicus, however, will best remember him for his kindness to beginning students and his zeal for spreading information. Many were the claims upon his time, but he was never too busy to spend an hour or two with anyone who was seriously interested in the fields with which he was familiar. All collectors and students of the American military scene lost a friend with his death at the relatively early age of 61.

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The attention of members is called to the special loan exhibition, *The Sword in America*, which will be held at The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., from 9 October to 19 December, 1954. After the showing at the Corcoran, the entire exhibition will travel to Detroit where it will be shown at The Detroit Institute of Art from 5 January to 15 February, 1955.

This exhibition is the first of its kind to be held in a major art museum and should prove of interest to all students of American military history. It will trace through actual specimens all the major types of sword used on this continent from the earliest Colonial days through the Corporation of London sword presented to General Eisenhower.

In addition to the swords which are being borrowed from many museums and private collections from coast to coast, there are to be numerous paintings, drawings and prints which show the sword in use. There will also be a large group of silver-mounted swords by American silversmiths, which should be of considerable interest to specialists in this field.

The recent book by Harold L. Peterson, *The American Sword, 1775-1945*, was prepared in connection with this exhibition, and it will serve, in part, as a catalog of the show. Most of the swords illustrated and described will be included. There will be, of course, numerous additional specimens, especially from the years before 1775, which were not covered by the book.

An opportunity to see such an assemblage of swords and pictures, many of which have important historical association, comes rarely, and it is hoped that many members will be able to attend the opening on the evening of October 9th.

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In the December 1953 issue of *MC&H*, we mentioned the newly formed American Society of Arms Collectors. In so doing we failed to include the fact that COMPANY Member Samuel E. Smith, of Markesan, Wisconsin, was also among the twenty-seven prominent firearms collectors who laid the foundation of this new group. Another leading spirit of the group is James E. Serven, recently elected to membership in THE COMPANY.

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Early last April we heard from Burt G. Loescher, of Burlingame, California (author of the article in our last issue on Baylor's Horse), about a new society for military collectors called The Guild of Miniature Figure Designers & Collectors. Thus far its membership is largely confined to the Pacific Coast area, with monthly meetings scheduled to be held at Burlingame. Loescher has been elected President, COMPANY Member Kenneth A. Green, Vice President; and Arthur Newell Chamberlin, III, Secretary-Treasurer.

The society issues a bi-monthly "ditto" journal called *The Dispatch Case*. Its articles are informal and short, but varied, with unusual emphasis on foreign military dress and history, and on pertinent bibliography. There is, for example, brief treatment given French infantry equipment of 1806-1813, Mexican cavalry of 1890, Danish Infantry of 1801-1807, the 24th British Foot at Isandhlwana and the Westphalian Regiment Konigen, 1812.

The Guild is the second miniature figure society to be formed—so far as we know—in America. The first, of course, is the relatively venerable Miniature Figure Collectors of America, with headquarters in Philadelphia. We welcome The Guild to the growing number of military collector groups in this country. The Secretary's address is 640 North El Camino Real, San Mateo, California.

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From time to time it behooves us to re-introduce ourselves to our readers—to explain just who the "we" of these notes actually are.

The editors, by-and-large, have three principal jobs: publishing *MC&H*, publishing "Military Uniforms in America," and reviewing book-size manuscripts submitted by members and others with an eye to their sponsorship by THE COMPANY. A fourth task is in the offing, that of planning and assembling an iconographic source book and guide to the Civil War for publication in 1961. Overall responsibility for these activities rests with the Editor-in-Chief and the Consulting Editor.

Associate Editor Tom Parker is, and has since the beginning been responsible for the colored plates, "Military Uniforms in America." The consistently high

quality of these plates, and their remarkable freedom from error, is in large measure due to his painstaking work. Until now, there has been no corresponding Associate for the journal. This lack has been corrected, and Robert L. Miller, long the Assistant Editor, was appointed an Associate. Working with him in Washington are Assistant Editors Robert W. Davis and Edward Ryan, the latter appointed by the Board of Governors on 14 May. In passing, it should be noted that since Colonel Todd moved to West Point last fall, the heavy burden of the magazine has fallen on Bob Miller and Bob Davis.

As we have said, the Board has just appointed Ed Ryan as Assistant Editor. Ryan is a Yale graduate, Class of 1940, with a fine naval record in the Pacific. Between 1946 and 1950 he served as Assistant Naval Attache at Moscow, Vladivostok and Helsinki; since then he has been with the State Department.

The second Assistant Editor appointed on 14 May is Lt. Col. John R. Elting, Armor, presently stationed at West Point as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Military Art and Engineering. He graduated from Stanford in 1932 and since that time has alternated between teaching and active military service.

Clyde Risley, a graduate of Pratt Institute, was also made Assistant Editor by action of the Board of Governors 14 May. Possessed of a varied career as artist, salesman, and director in the field of commercial art, he will assist Tom Parker in his responsibility of bringing the plates to production.

Four book manuscripts were considered by the editors of THE COMPANY during 1953. One of these, Harold Peterson's *The American Sword*, was approved for sponsorship and has since been published. Two were, for one reason or another, returned to the authors; and one was retained for further consideration. Two manuscripts have been submitted in 1954, so far.

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NOTES ON MEMBERS: "Arms, Armor and Abels" is the title of an article by Jay William in *True*, March 1954, about Bob Abels and his fascinating shop at 860 Lexington Avenue, New York. It is well done and well worth reading. It mentions co-worker and co-Member Bernard Day, the big Abels catalog, the milling customers, the legion of items piled to the ceiling, and the rest. But no article, in our opinion, can convey adequately the full sense of concentration and press that is the hallmark of Abel's shop . . .

Lt. Col. Robert H. Rankin is doing a series of articles on "The Story of Army Uniforms," for *The National Guardsman*. Parts I and II, bringing the account to the period of the Civil War, appeared in the March and April issues, respectively.



The Wirths and the Harles present General Shepherd their Marine Corps model figures. Left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Wirth, Major John Magruder, General Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. Harle.
OFFICIAL U. S. MARINE CORPS PHOTOGRAPH

On January seventh of this year, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wirth and Mr. and Mrs. William G. Harle (both families members of THE COMPANY) journeyed to Washington for the purpose of presenting to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., their two dioramas of Marine Corps figures. These beautifully made set pieces are now featured in the permanent Marine Corps exhibit in the Hall of Naval History of the Smithsonian Institute.

The Wirth diorama—which, incidentally was awarded first prize in its class in the 1953 Miniature Figure Collectors of America showing—depicts a detachment of Marines in the eighteen eighties, and includes a gun crew serving a 3.5 inch boat howitzer. In addition to the gun crew, there are a private and a "music" in full dress (the latter's coat being red), and a field grade and a company grade officer, both also in full dress. Accurate to the last detail, the junior officer sports a plume on his cap, while his superior's headgear is adorned with a brush. The gun crew is under command of a lieutenant, and its members wear the service dress which was regulation from 1875 to 1891.

The Harles have created an action-filled group consisting of the famous "Horse Marines", more officially known to history as the Mounted Detachment, Peking Legation Guard, as it appeared in 1939. The eleven figures include a first lieutenant, a sergeant major, a buck sergeant carrying the white detachment guidon, and eight "troopers." (The detachment actually had a strength of 25-30 men, and was a part of the headquarters company. The mounts were Mongolian ponies.) With their gold-bordered, red shabraques, glistening sabers, and realistically fuzzy fur hats, the group makes up a striking replica of one of our nation's more unusual military formations. The painstaking work of the Harles is evidenced by the attention to such details as the clearly reproduced Marine Corps insignia on the hats, the seams of the overcoats, and the inclusion of such refinements as horseshoes—on the horses, of course.

Incidentally, Major Magruder reports that General Shepherd, in expressing his appreciation for the gift in behalf of the Corps, admitted to being an increasingly enthusiastic miniature figure admirer himself.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

To say that THE COMPANY is prejudiced in favor of Governor Harold L. Peterson's *The American Sword, 1775-1945*, is an understatement. It has officially sponsored the volume, and is concerned with assuring it a wide sale. To review the book editorially with anything like dispassion would be, therefore, difficult if not impossible. To secure a more objective approach, MC&H has turned to a non-member, well versed in American weapons—a professional military curator. The commentary below is based on views he has expressed.

The American Sword is a clearly written, concise treatment of a difficult subject. Out of several possible methods of organization, the author has selected the one most useful. His primary categories are by broad types of sword, and within these by chronological periods. Models are identified with considerable precision; there are very few of those broad, useless rubrics, so common in other works, like "militia sword of 1820-1850." This new, informed, scientific system of arrangement and identification is one of the chief assets of the work.

The illustrations are splendidly reproduced, and the typography and format of the book, which was designed by Vice-president Ray Riling, are highly to be commended. The publisher has more than fulfilled his share of the enterprise. Every sword type described is illustrated—an unusual record.

For the sword collector, who must identify his models with precision, *The American Sword* is an indispensable and all-sufficient aide. For the general military collector, for the artist and the author, the book will also prove entertaining and essential. For their uses, however, it has one drawback in the absence of more full length views and more pictures of scabbards. The tremendous difficulty in including such pictures is understandable, and the author has partially filled the need by means of special illustrations and detailed descriptions.

The scholarship of the book is impeccable. Since the book is a survey, there are some omissions, of course. More will develop as students of the sword pry deeper into the field. But Peterson has given these students their start with a volume which is a paragon of clarity and accuracy. He and publishers Ray Riling and Robert Halter deserve tremendous credit for producing a truly first class book. It is a book which every military collector should own.

Copies may be obtained from Ray Riling, 6844 Gorsten Street, Philadelphia 19, for \$10.00.

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Edward S. Wallace once more finds a place in these columns with a new book, *General William Jenkins Worth, Monterey's Forgotten Hero* (Southern Methodist University Press, \$5.00). Our congratulations to Member Wallace on a fine biography of one of the most interesting and controversial American military figures of the first half of the nineteenth century. Unquestionably both brave and able, Worth unfortunately became embroiled in a tremendous dispute with Winfield Scott. Partisans on both sides were violent, and since Scott survived Worth and his supporters remained in more prominent positions, an adequate appraisal of Worth has long been lacking. Worth died in 1857 and, after a funeral which was one of the military spectacles of the century, he was buried in a busy New York Square where Broadway crosses Fifth Avenue. Wallace's new study, based principally on original sources, is a clearly written account which steadfastly eschews the prejudices of earlier Scott partisans and states the Worth case very convincingly.

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While still on the subject of books by members, it is a pleasure to note that A. M. Carey's next volume, *English, Irish and Scottish Firearms Makers*, is scheduled for release in mid September. Those who have obtained copies of Mr. Carey's earlier fine book, *American Firearms Makers*, will certainly look forward to this companion volume. Once again, the jacket design is by Associate Editor Tom Parker. A fuller comment on the new book will appear on these pages after its release.

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The Fremantle Diary, as edited by Walter Lord (Little, Brown & Company, \$4.00) is the first reprinting in 90 years of a primary source which contains much of interest for Company members. Lt. Col. James Arthur Lyon Fremantle of the Coldstream Guards spent three months of 1863 touring the Confederate States. Entering the Confederacy in Texas, he proceeded across the breadth of the South, stopping at Jackson to view portions of the Vicksburg Campaign, in Chattanooga to talk with General Bragg, in Charleston, Richmond, Frederick and Gettysburg in time to witness the battle.

Fremantle was a keen observer of Confederate soldiers, their attitudes, customs, and dress; and from him come some of the best descriptions of what these men actually looked like. He saw Duff's cavalry wearing flannel

shirts and high black hats; the 3rd Texas Infantry in an assortment of French kepis, "wide-awakes," and Mexican hats; Walker's Division in Louisiana wearing ragged civilian clothes; Hood's troops at Chambersburg carrying only old pieces of carpet in which they rolled up the few odds and ends they used on the march, and so on, for many other units.

Included also are such interesting facts as the note that the typical Confederate soldier sported his toothbrush in his button hole like a boutonniere and that as early as 1863 Jeb Stuart's cavalry customarily carried their sabers between their left leg and the horse when mounted.

This volume, unfortunately, is not indexed, but it does have a descriptive table of contents; and Lord's explanatory notes provide an excellent background for the events and incidents mentioned.

★ ★ ★

April 19 witnessed the publication of Bruce Catton's latest volume, *U. S. Grant and the American Military Tradition*, (Little, Brown & Co., \$3.00). At first glance this book would seem to fit right in with THE COMPANY's concern in the military tradition of the United States, and thus be of especial interest to all members. Unfortunately, however, the author states the theme but does not develop it. Aside from a few early ex-

periences which seem to indicate some cause for Grant's dislike of military ceremony and full uniforms, there is no discussion of how Grant affected military tradition or how it affected him. American military tradition per se is not even discussed or defined, so that one cannot tell exactly what the author had in mind by his title. Mr. Catton writes with all his remarkable charm, and the book is a highly entertaining anecdotal account of some episodes in Grant's life, marred to a certain degree by many surprising errors of fact.

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Through the efforts of General David M. Shoup, Duel, Sloan & Pearce has brought out a new and enlarged edition of Robert Sherrod's *Tarawa, the Story of a Battle*, which was originally published in 1949. The principal addition comprises a selection of comments written by officers of all grades who participated in the battle and giving their views of it from the perspective of ten years after. A portion of the proceeds of each book sold will be set aside to form a scholarship fund for the use of students whose fathers have been killed in battle or died of wounds. The list price of the book is \$3.50. Members may obtain copies for \$2.50 by writing the Tarawa Book Fund Association, c/o Brig. Gen. David M. Shoup, U.S.M.C., P. O. Box 2042, Potomac Station, Alexandria, Virginia.

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